

Civil Action 5:20-cv-00256

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\$75,000.00, excluding interest and costs. Plaintiff is a Massachusetts corporation authorized to do business in Texas, with its principal place of business in New York, while the Defendants are a Texas corporation, with its principal place of business in Texas, and a citizen/resident of the state of Texas.

5. *Venue.* Venue is proper in this district under 28 U.S.C. § 1391 (a)(1) and/or § 1391 (b)(1) because all defendants reside in this district. Further, a substantial part of the events or omissions giving rise to this claim occurred in this district, thus venue is also proper under 28 U.S.C. § 1391 (a)(1) and/or § 1391 (b)(2).

6. *Conditions Precedent.* All conditions precedent have been performed or have occurred.

7. *Facts.* On or about March 14, 2016, Borrower entered into a Business Loan Agreement (“Agreement”) with WebBank, pursuant to which WebBank loaned the principal amount of \$150,000.00 (“Loan Amount”) to Borrower. See Exhibit 1, the Agreement.

8. WebBank assigned the Agreement to CCAS on October 28, 2015. See Exhibit 2, the Confirmation of Assignment of Loan.

9. Pursuant to the terms and conditions of the Agreement, Borrower agreed to pay the Repayment Amount(s) to Lender through Weekday ACH Debits except as set forth in Section 5.1 of the Agreement. Further, Borrower authorized and requested Lender and/or each Operator to withdraw from the Designated Account a Weekday Payment on each Weekday until Lender had received all amounts due under the Agreement, including without limitation each Weekday Payment listed on the Payment History, attached as Exhibit 3, plus all late fees, taxes, non-sufficient funds charges, reimbursements and other amounts due pursuant to the Agreement.

10. Pursuant to the Agreement, Borrower agreed to abide by certain “Representations, Warranties and Covenants” as defined in the Agreement, including, without limitations, the following: (a) to not materially change the nature of your business from the type originally

disclosed to Lender in connection with the Agreement; and (b) to not sell or otherwise transfer its business without: (i) lender's express written consent, and (ii) the assumption by transferee of all of Borrower's obligations under the Agreement using documentation reasonably satisfactory to lender. See Exhibit 1, page 5, section 10.1.

11. As part of the Agreement, Vinson executed a personal guaranty (the "Personal Guaranty") pursuant to which he personally guaranteed "the prompt payment to Lender of all amounts owed by the Borrower. . . under the above Agreement." The guaranty was one of payment and performance and not a guaranty of collection. Among other things, Vinson, as guarantor, agreed that Lender "may extend, transfer and amend the Agreement and . . . [would] be bound by all such changes." In addition, Vinson waived all defenses, legal or equitable, available to him and waived all notices to which he might be entitled by law, "including notice of protest, presentment, transfer, demand and default." See Exhibit 1, page 11, which contains the Personal Guaranty.

12. Upon information and belief Borrower's last payment was on March 15, 2016, thereafter, Borrower breached the Agreement by not making further payments and both Borrower and Guarantor are liable for Borrower's breach.

13. CCAS has duly demanded that Borrower and Guarantor cure their breach of the Agreement and pay CCAS, but Defendants have failed to do so. See Exhibit 4, demand letter dated February 4, 2020, sent to Vinson Construction and Vinson Individually, and Exhibit 4A, the returned certified mail/return receipt requested envelope marked as received by "Mike Vinson".

14. By reason of the foregoing, CCAS has been damaged in the amount of \$161,250.00.

15. Pursuant to the Loan Agreement, Defendants are liable for reasonable costs associated with a breach of the Loan Agreement, including but not limited to court costs, and attorney's fees. CCAS has given Defendants written notice that it intends to enforce provisions of the Agreement

that require the payment of all costs of enforcement, including reasonable attorneys' fees. Demand pursuant to Chapter 38 of the Texas Civil Practice & Remedies Code has been made.

16. *First Cause of Action.* Plaintiff incorporates Paragraphs 1 through 15 inclusive, as though fully set forth herein, and pleads its First Cause of Action – Breach of Contract.

17. By reason of the foregoing, Borrower has breached the Loan Agreement, causing CCAS to suffer damages.

18. Plaintiff is entitled to recover damages under the Loan Agreement in an amount equal to the sum of \$161,250.00. Both unpaid principal and interest are included in calculating the jurisdictional amount. *See Brainin v. Melikan*, 396 F.2d 153, 155 (3rd Cir. 1968) (interest included in computing jurisdictional amount which is an integral part of the aggregate amount of damages claimed); *Tupperware Home Parties v. Stewart*, 40 F.3d 384 1994 WL 652497 at \*4 n.5 (5<sup>th</sup> Cir. 1994) and *Muddu Oils Refinery Ltd. V. Dykes*, C.A. No. 4:06-CV-825-BE, 2007 WL 894568, at \*3 (N.D. Tex. March 26, 2007. (“Interest that is an integral part of the claim, such as interest owed as part of a contractual obligation and exacted as the agreed upon price for the hire of money, becomes part of the principal for jurisdiction purposes.” Cites omitted). Further, attorney's fees are sought pursuant to both the Contract and Chapter 38 of the Texas Civil Practice and Remedies Code. Attorney's fees are based on hourly fees. Such an arrangement is usual and customary for collection litigation. The hourly rate for lead counsel is \$425.00 per hour and more than five hours of time has been incurred in reviewing the file; sending the demand letter, drafting the complaint, obtaining service and complying with initial disclosures.

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19. *Second Cause of Action.* Plaintiff incorporates Paragraphs 1 through 18 inclusive, as though fully set forth herein, and pleads its Second Cause of Action Breach of Personal Guaranty.

20. Defendant Vinson provided a Personal Guaranty, pursuant to which Vinson personally guaranteed prompt payment to Lender of all amounts due.

21. Borrower breached one or more of the Contractual Covenants in the Agreement with Plaintiff, triggering the Personal Guaranty.

22. CCAS has demanded that Vinson cure Borrower's breach, but Vinson has refused. As a result, Vinson has breached the Personal Guaranty, causing damages to CCAS in the amount of \$161,250.00. Attorney's fees pursuant to the contract and Chapter 38 of the Texas Civil Practice and Remedies Code are sought.

23. *Third Cause of Action.* The third cause of action is suit to foreclose security interests/collateral. Contemporaneously with the execution of the Business Loan Agreement, Borrower also executed a Security Agreement dated March 14, 2016, granting Lender, as secured party, a security interest in certain personal property of Borrower including:

(a) any and all amounts owing to you now or in the future from any merchant processor, (b) all Accounts; (c) all Chattel Paper (including Tangible Chattel Paper and Electronic Chattel Paper); (d) all Instruments; (e) all Goods, including, without limitation, Equipment, motor vehicles, inventory, Farm Products, Accessions, and as Extracted Collateral; (f) all Documents; (g) all General Intangibles (including, without limitation, Payment Intangibles and software); (h) all Deposit Accounts; (i) all Letter of Credit Rights; (j) all Investment Property; (k) all Supporting Obligations; (l) all trademarks, trade names, service marks, logos and other sources of business identifiers, and all registrations, recordings and applications with the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office ("USPTO") and all renewals, reissues and extensions thereof (collectively "IP"); (m) any records and data relating to any of the foregoing, whether in the form of a writing photograph, microfilm, microfiche, or electronic media, together with all of your right, title and interest in and to all computer software required to utilize, create, maintain, and process any such records or data on electronic media; and (n) any and all proceeds of any of the foregoing, including insurance proceeds or other proceeds from the sale, destruction, loss, or other disposition of any of the foregoing, and sums due from a third party who has damaged or destroyed any of the foregoing or from that party's insurer, whether due to judgment, settlement or other process. You irrevocably authorize us and our designees at any time and from time to time to file; (i) in any filing office in any jurisdiction any initial financing statements and amendments thereto that indicate the collateral therein as all of your assets or words of similar effect, regardless of whether such description is greater in scope than the collateral pledged to us hereunder;

and (ii) such recordations with the USPTO we deem necessary or desirable to evidence the security interest in IP described above.

24. A copy of the Security Agreement is included within the Business Loan Agreement executed by Defendant Vinson on behalf of Borrower. See Exhibit 1, page 5, Section 9. Plaintiff is entitled to judicial foreclosure of its lien against the subject collateral to satisfy any judgment rendered. In accordance with the Security Agreement, and by Borrower's failure to pay as agreed, Plaintiff further sues for possession of the collateral identified in the Security Agreement for the purpose of selling same and applying the proceeds to the balance due, if not otherwise satisfied.

25. *Default.* CCAS has demanded that defendants pay the indebtedness and defendants have failed to do so. See Exhibit 4, demand letter dated February 4, 2020, sent to Vinson Construction and Vinson, Individually, and Exhibit 4A, the returned certified mail/return receipt requested envelope marked as received by an individual under name "Mike Vinson".

26. *Prayer.* Plaintiff prays for the following relief:

- (a) that process issue and Defendants be served as provided by law;
- (b) that Plaintiff have Judgment against Defendants in the amount of \$161,250.00, plus attorneys fees as provided in the Agreement and under Texas law, including fees in the event of appeal, plus post-judgment interest at the legal rate, and all costs of court;
- (c) for judicial foreclosure of its lien regarding the subject collateral so as to satisfy its judgment;
- (d) possession of the collateral for the purpose of selling and applying proceeds to the balance due, if not otherwise satisfied; and
- (e) that the Court grant such other and further relief, at law or in equity, for which Plaintiff is justly entitled.

Respectfully submitted,

By: /s/ M. H. Cersonsky

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